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CITE SAIGON 3850

TO: IMMEDIATE HEADQUARTERS.

FOR DCI, DDCI AND MR. LAYTON ONLY FROM MR. CARVER

REF:

1. REF DRAFT ASSESSMENT WAS NOT CHANGED IN SUBSTANCE AND NOW STANDS, CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, AS FIRST HALF OF GENERAL WEYAND'S FINAL REPORT. IT WAS MODIFIED IN DETAIL AT SEVERAL PLACES BECAUSE OF NEW EVENTS OR NEW INFORMATION CHANGING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. ITS TONE WAS NOT BRIGHTENED IN THE COORDINATION PROCESS AND IF ANYTHING THE FINAL TONE IS EVEN MORE SOMBER.

2. THIS APPRECIATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE WEYAND PARTY AND BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN PLUS, TOM POLGAR, WHO HAS SEPARATELY REPORTED TO YOU HIS OWN PARALLEL VIEWS.

3. PEOPLE HERE (OUTSIDE THE STATION) ARE NOT AWARE THAT I CABLED YOU THE FIRST DRAFT SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO PROTECT THIS FACT.

4. I HAVE JUST BEEN SHOWN THE [] CABLE PRIVATELY ADVISING 25X1 TOM OF THE EVACUATION DECISIONS REACHED AT THE LAST WSAG. THESE

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DECISIONS ARE LUNATIC. EVACUATION IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND THE URGENT NEED FOR DEVELOPING A SENSIBLE PLAN IS HIGHLIGHTED BY GENERAL WEYAND IN HIS SUMMARY LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. HE ALSO PLANS TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP ORALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE SEES HIM IN PALM SPRINGS ON FRIDAY. THE SPECIFIC STEPS DIRECTED FOLLOWING THE WSAG, HOWEVER, REFLECT NO FEEL WHATSOEVER FOR THE SITUATION HERE.

5. TOM AND TED HAVE SPOKEN FOR THEMSELVES IN SAIGON

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25X1 [REDACTED]. THEIR VIEWS ARE SIMILAR TO MINE. I AM CONVINCED THAT SUCH BLUNDERING STEPS WOULD PRECIPITATE THE VERY CRISIS THEY ARE SUPPOSEDLY DESIGNED TO COPE WITH AND, IN THE PROCESS, CAUSE THE GVN TO TOPPLE. CERTAINLY A PRUDENT, DISCREET THINNING OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE SHOULD BE PROMPTLY INITIATED. BUT IT SHOULD BE SENSIBLY AND SENSITIVELY PLANNED. OUR PLANNING NEEDS TO BE DONE QUIETLY, WITHOUT VISIBLE SIGNS OF AN IMPENDING AMERICAN EXODUS UNTIL WE DECIDE TO TAKE OUT EVERYONE LEFT. AT THAT TIME, THE SITUATION WILL BE COLLAPSING--AND IF IT IS NOT, THE AMERICAN EXODUS WILL PROBABLY TRIGGER ITS COLLAPSE.

6. JUDGING FROM WHAT HAPPENED IN DANANG AND (ON A SMALLER SCALE) NHA TRANG, IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF AN

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AUGMENTED U.S. AIRBORNE DIVISION, WITH TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT, TO EXECUTE THE EXFILTRATION NOT ONLY OF THE REMAINING AMERICANS IN THE SAIGON AREA BUT ALSO OF THE MANY VIETNAMESE (WITH THEIR FAMILIES) WHOM IN GOOD CONSCIENCE WE SIMPLY COULD NOT LEAVE BEHIND TO BE SLAUGHTERED. THIS IS THE LINE GENERAL WEYAND WILL BE TAKING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON FRIDAY, 4 APRIL. E2 IMPDET.

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